

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on November 13, 2003. Claims 1-27 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Preliminarily, Applicants wish to express appreciation for the Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter. As noted in the Action, claims 13-27 are allowed, and claims 4 and 6-12 are allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 5 of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/606,896. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

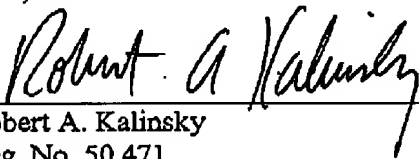
However, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, Applicants have concurrently filed a Terminal Disclaimer for the '896 application, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. In accordance with MPEP 804(I)(B), withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection for this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Robert A. Kalinsky
Reg. No. 50,471
RAK

Attachment: Appendix including a copy of Terminal Disclaimer filed for U.S. Patent App. S/N 09/606,896

APPENDIX

Attached hereto is a copy of the Terminal Disclaimer filed for U.S. Patent App. S/N
09/606,896.